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Comparative Genomics of
Pathogens

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Examples:

Phylogeny of SARS associated Coronaviruses

Software:

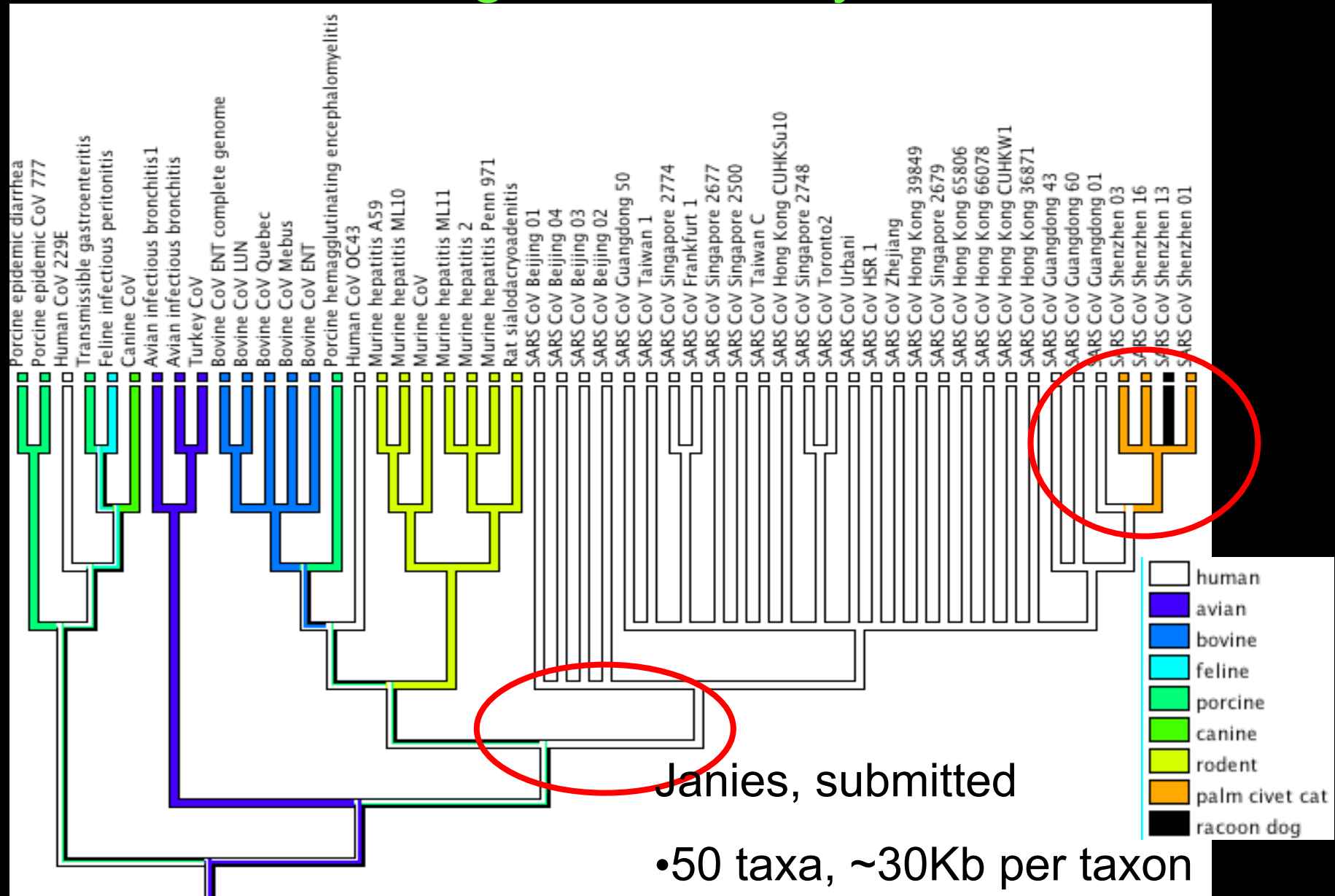
Intersection-exclusion analysis on trees

Hardware-software synergy:

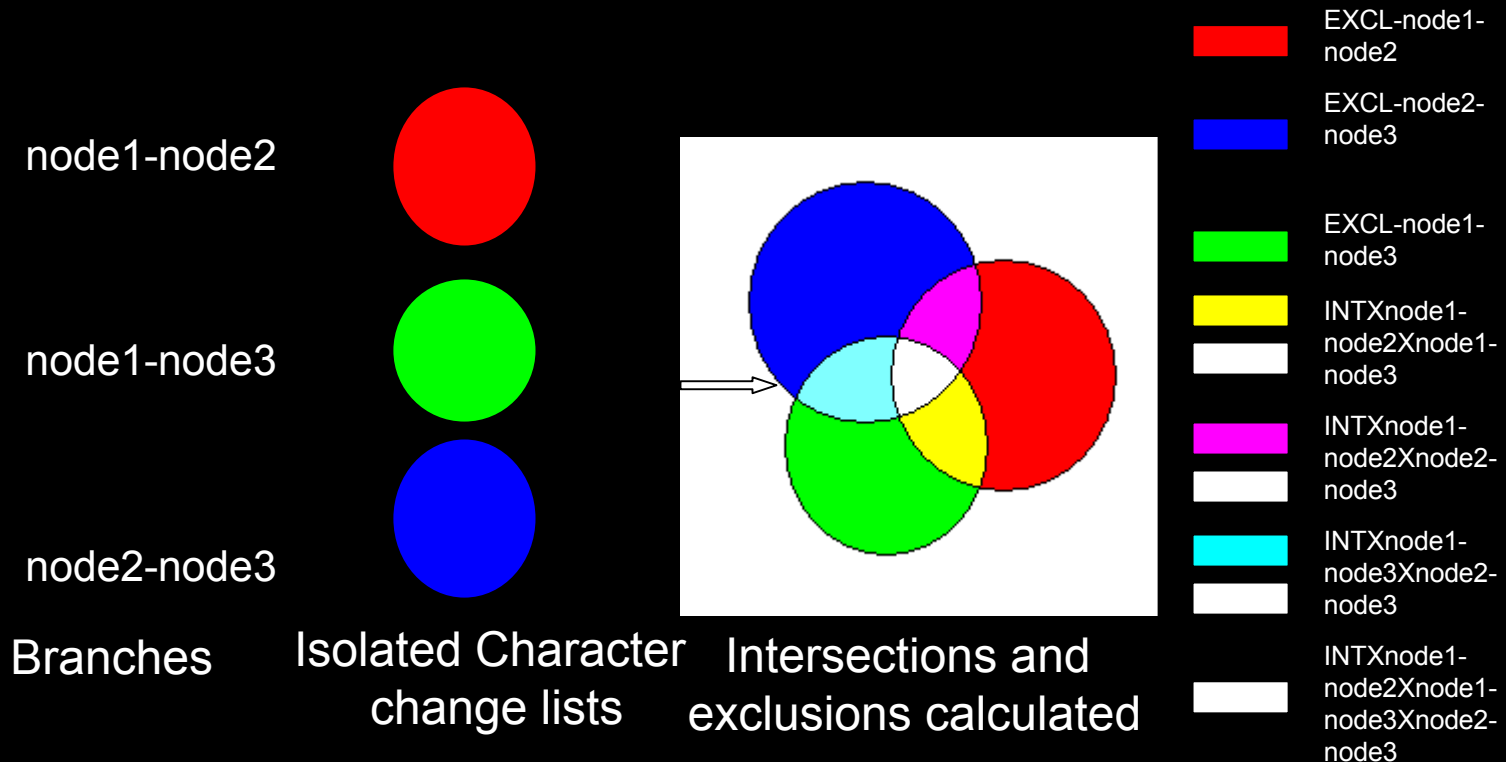
Very fast multiple alignment and tree search in
self-built parallel computing clusters

Host Switching Among Coronaviruses e.g. SARS

Based on whole genome analysis



Intersection-Exclusion Analysis on database of character change implied by trees.



Shared changes in origin of SARS CoV in humans and subsequent infection of small carnivores

position	locus	function	anc	des	change
1893	nsp2-pp1a/pp1ab	two-proteases	A	C	Tv
1893	nsp2-pp1a/pp1ab	involved in transcriptional regulat	G	T	Tv
3310	nsp3-pp1a/pp1ab	coronavirus-host interactions	G	C	Tv
3310	nsp3-pp1a/pp1ab		T	C	Ti
6440	nsp3-pp1a/pp1ab		A	G	Ti
6440	nsp3-pp1a/pp1ab		G	T	Tv
22172	glycosylation site of Spike Prote	recognition of host cell receptor	C	A	Tv
22172	glycosylation site of Spike Protein		K	-	Del
22951	Spike Protein		C	G	Tv
22951	Spike Protein		Y	-	Del
23310	Spike Protein		B	C	ABC
23310	Spike Protein		T	C	Ti
25508	hypothetical protein sars3a		K	-	Del
25508	hypothetical protein sars3a		T	A	Tv
25544	hypothetical protein sars3a		C	T	Ti
25544	hypothetical protein sars3a		R	A	ABC
25844	hypothetical protein sars3a		B	G	ABC
25844	hypothetical protein sars3a		W	A	ABC

Tree search is a NP-complete problem

$$|G| = \prod_{i=3}^t (2i - 3)$$

Heuristic Search Strategies

Monte Carlo

random tree building

Hill climbing

branch swapping

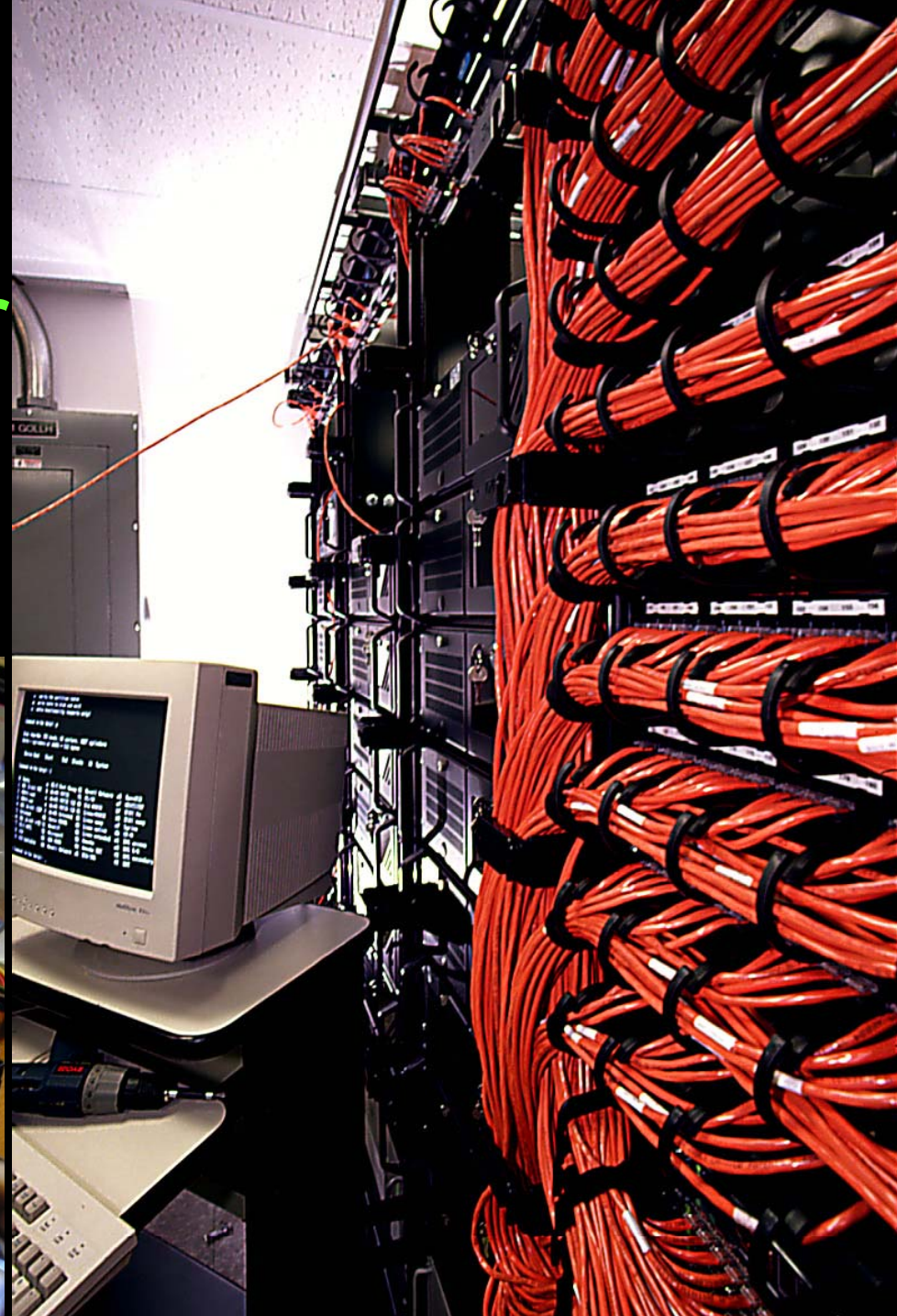
Simulated annealing

ratcheting

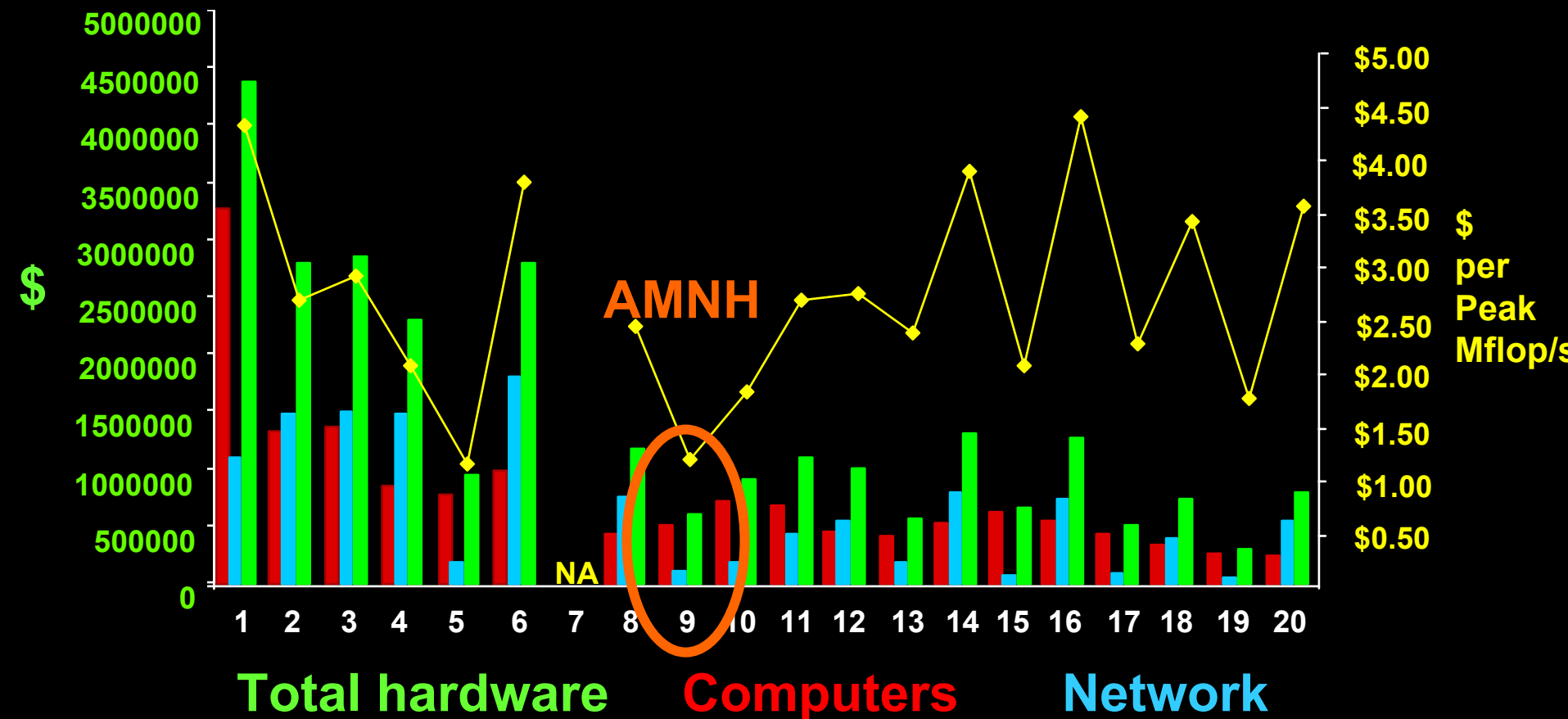
Genetic algorithms

tree fusion

564 processor
self-built cluster.
9th fastest cluster
in the world
6/2001

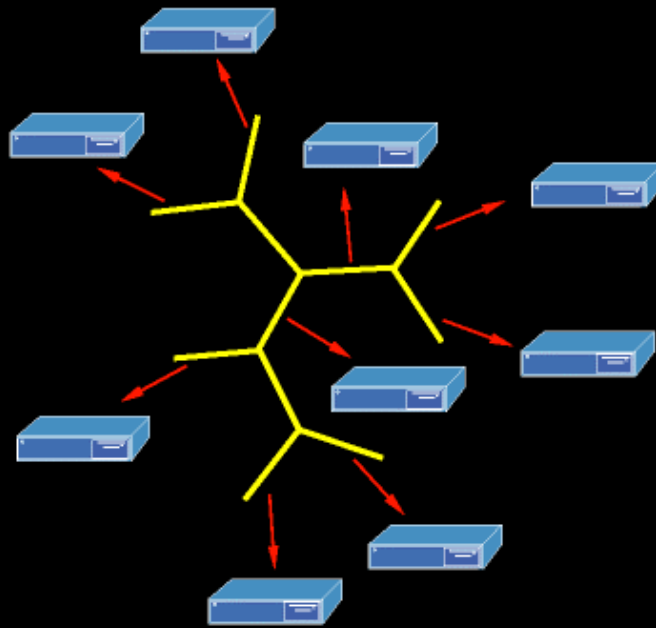


Networks explode the cost



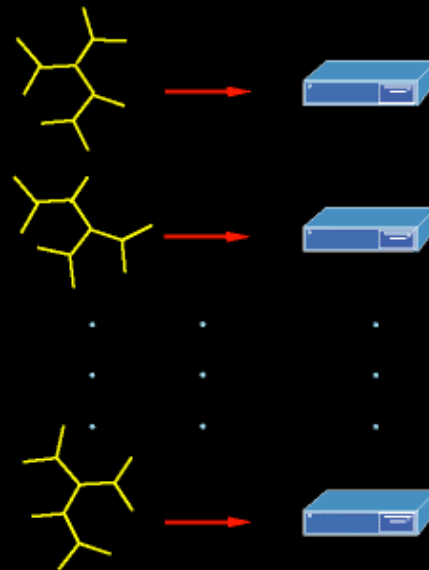
Ranking in June 2001 by clusters.top500.org

Parallel building



High ratio of
communication to
computation

Multi building

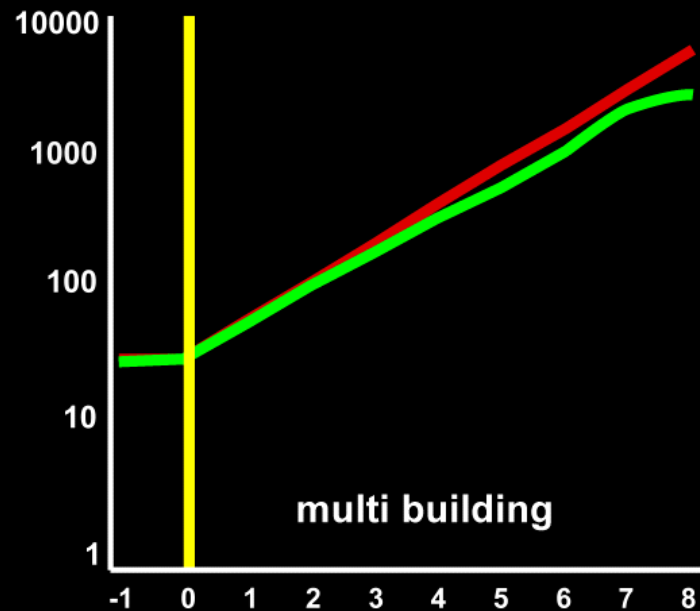
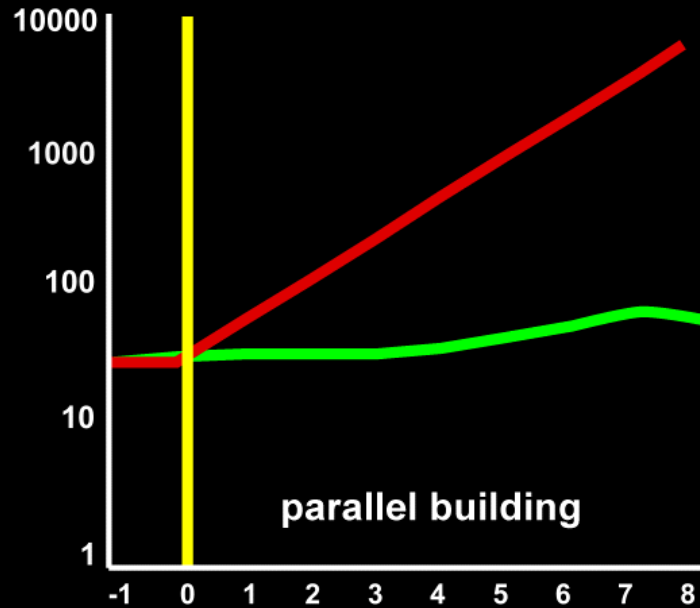


Low ratio of
communication to
computation

Tree-based
alignment:

speedup
and
granularity

\log_{10} trees examined per second



\log_2 number of slave processors

More than just trees:

- Database of ancestor descendant changes

- Tools to search for Independently evolved genomic changes among diverse pathogens to provide well corroborated arguments for regions that confer pathogenicity or transmissibility

- Scalable and economic approaches to large datasets

- Sequencing coronaviruses before, during, and after host shifts